

Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Release - Immediate.

FIGHTING RODENT PESTS IN COLORADO.

Federal Bureau and State Authorities Cooperate in Work
Thought to Have Saved Much Food and Storage.

Washington, D. C.

More than \$100,000 worth of crops

and forage in six counties of Colorado was saved this year by poisoning prairie dogs. That is the estimate of specialists of the Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, who cooperated with the extension service of the Colorado State College of Agriculture and the Colorado State entomologist in treating with standard poison bait more than 200,000 acres of prairie dog infested crop and range lands in Huerfano, Custer, Montrose, Rio Grande, Saguache, and Otero Counties. Plans are being made to extend this work greatly in the coming season.

(Editors:- The additional details below are for publications desiring more particulars.)

Prairie dogs and other small animals which have damaged farm crops and stock ranges in this State to the extent of several million dollars every year are giving way before organized and systematic poisoning campaigns. Fifty-four of the 63 counties in the State are more or less heavily infested with prairie dogs, making a total infested area of more than 11,000,000 acres. Sporadic efforts by individuals to control the pest by inferior methods have failed, but several hundred thousand acres have been freed by cooperative campaigns in agricultural sections.

How Pests Are Fought.

The usual plan of campaign is as follows: The establishment of pest districts under the State pest law, which provides for the enforcement by the State entomologist of pest extermination in organized pest districts upon application of the majority of resident landowners; the furnishing of standard poisoned bait to landowners at cost, and free when for use on public lands; and the general supervision of the campaign by Federal or State experts. The plan also includes the further enlistment of the local cooperation of county officers, stock associations, farm clubs, and all individuals. The county agricultural agent, assisted by Federal or State experts, is usually the one on whom the work of organization and the conduct of the campaign rests. This plan is modified to suit local conditions. The various counties are being reached as rapidly as available funds will allow, and are being taken up in the order of their importance and the bearing they may have upon other already organized campaigns.

A field office of the Biological Survey is being maintained at 710 Interstate Trust Building., Denver, Colorado.

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